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# The Society of Actuaries Living to 100 Symposia: What Does Long Life Mean to Us?

By Anna M. Rappaport

In January of 2020 the Society of Actuaries (SOA) will present its seventh triennial international Living to 100 (LT100) Symposium in Orlando, Florida, on January 13–15, 2020. I have participated in all six prior symposia as a paper writer, committee member and speaker. With the support of more than 20 organizations from around the world, past symposia brought together thought leaders from diverse disciplines and as many as 10 countries to share ideas and knowledge on aging, changes in survival rates, and their impact on society, institutions and individuals.

I have greatly enjoyed the symposia and networking with the people there. At the past few Living to 100 symposia, a diverse range of professionals, scientists, academics, and practitioners participated and there was discussion of the latest scientific information on how and why we age, methodologies for estimating current and future rates of survival, potential benefits and risks associated with the increasing numbers of retirees and potential answers to other difficult related issues.

This meeting is different from most professional meetings that I attend because the content covers a wide span of different issues and helps me think about the bigger picture, and how the specific things I am interested in tie to the bigger picture.

The symposium will combine keynotes from thought leaders with major scientific backgrounds, papers, and panel discussions and for the first time in 2020, some shorter essays. Past papers are available on the SOA Living to 100 website. There is a monograph for each symposium. The 2017 monograph includes the full content of that symposium. For papers through 2014, there is a large summary paper focusing on the themes, areas of agreement and disagreement, and a list of all the abstracts. That paper is highly recommended.



I believe that actuaries who are concerned with social insurance and public finance will be very interested in Living to 100 because societal aging impacts public policy and budgets in many different ways including:

- Impact on the tax base
- Impact on the services needed by the population
- Cost of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other public services
- Need for programs to help facilitate work at older ages
- Structure of communities to make them more adaptable: the world health organization has a program for age-friendly communities

These are current topics that are very important because there are questions about how programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid may change in the future. There is a long-term big question about how retirement ages for Social Security may change. Longevity has increased more than Social Security retirement ages, and there is a long-term imbalance in the Social Security system that must be corrected. Adjusting retirement ages is certainly one of the ways that the imbalance can be corrected. One of the highlights of these meetings are regularly assembled panels where Social Security actuaries have compared mortality and experience between different countries.

The program for 2020 Living to 100 is not totally set as of this writing, but the general topics and program will be like prior meetings. Keynote speakers offer insight into major areas of scientific and societal development. Here are bios for the two 2020 keynote speakers:

Dr. Steve Horvath will offer insights into the scientific side. He is a professor in the Departments of Human Genetics and Biostatistics at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research lies at the intersection of computational biology, genetics, epidemiology, and systems biology. He works on all aspects of biomarker development with a particular focus on genomic biomarkers of aging. He recently published an article that describes a highly accurate biomarker of aging known as the epigenetic clock. Salient features of the epigenetic clock include its high accuracy and its applicability to a broad spectrum of tissues and cell types. Dr. Horvath's most recent work demonstrates that the epigenetic clock captures aspects of biological age.

Ronald Klein will offer insights into the societal side of aging. He is an Actuary and is the Director of Global Aging for The Geneva Association—the leading international insurance think tank for strategically important insurance and risk management issues. As the leader of the Geneva Association's work on global aging issues his responsibilities include the development and publication of papers and articles on the topic of global aging; leadership of the annual Geneva Association Health & Ageing Conference; managing the industry working group on global aging; liaison with other (re)insurance and aging-related associations as well as representation of the Geneva Association at conferences and meetings. Ronnie will bring a practical approach to research by providing workable suggestions to mitigate global risks related to ageing. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Society of Actuaries.

The program is under development and will depend on the papers and essays submitted and the panels planned. Some of the likely topics include:

1. Understanding the issues:
  - a. Mortality/longevity
  - b. Morbidity
  - c. Quality of Life
  - d. Relations between mortality/longevity, morbidity and the quality of life
  - e. Effects of developments in genetics, medicine and disease management

- f. Effects of changes in behavior and the environment
  - g. Effects of demographic characteristics
  - h. Effects of individual- and contextual-(community) level socioeconomic characteristics
  - i. Ongoing research, including medical, biological and aging research
2. Data sources for mortality, morbidity, quality of life measurement and projection:  
Availability and new efforts/projects to collect data
  3. Modeling and projection techniques:  
Emerging models and projection techniques
  4. Implications for society, institutions and individuals, as well as changes needed to support a growing aging population and related public policy issues and potential solutions
  5. Management of longevity risk:  
Application of existing or new longevity techniques, data, theories, models or methods to actuarial practice. ■

*I hope to see many of you at the 2020 Living to 100.*

**IMPORTANT LINKS FOR YOU:**

A link to the current Living to 100 summary paper, which summarizes the content from the initial Living to 100 Symposium through the 2014 Symposium:

<https://www.soa.org/research-reports/2016/Living-to-100-Insight-on-the-Challenges-and-Opportunities-of-Longevity/>

A link to the 2017 Living to 100 online monograph that contains the papers and other content presented at the 2017 Symposium:

<https://www.soa.org/essays-monographs/2017-living-to-100/>



Anna M. Rappaport, FSA, MAAA, serves as chairperson of the Committee on Post-Retirement Needs and Risks (PRNR) and the Steering Committee for the Aging and Retirement Strategic Research Program. She can be contacted at [anna.rappaport@gmail.com](mailto:anna.rappaport@gmail.com).